

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Thursday, February 11, 2010  
Room 415, State Capitol Building, State Capitol Complex**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson, Co-Chair  
Sen. Brent Goodfellow  
Sen. David Hinkins  
Rep. Roger Barrus  
Rep. Jack Draxler  
Rep. James R. Gowans  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Christine Watkins  
Rep. Bill Wright

**STAFF:** Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:** A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Gibson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to approve the minutes of February 1, 2010, February 3, 2010 and February 4, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

**Introduction of Items for Discussion and Voting: Fiscal Analyst**

The Analyst distributed the voting packet. In addition, he included the item, "New Fees for State Parks" then presented a brief overview of each document.

**Committee Discussion and Voting**

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to adopt Funding Increases, 2010 General Session.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Noel moved to add a new line at the bottom of the table and make a one-time appropriation of \$200,000 from the Parks Fees restricted fund to the Parks Operation line item for FY 2011.

Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, Mary Tullius, Director, Division of State Parks and Recreation, Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, and Mike Styler, Director, Department of Natural Resources commented on the proposal to open a hunt for Bighorn sheep on Antelope Island. A discussion followed.

The Substitute Motion passed with Sen. Goodfellow and Rep. Barrus voting in opposition.

**MOTION:** Rep. Noel moved to add the following intent language: The Legislature intends that the proceeds of hunts for bison, deer and Bighorn sheep on Antelope Island, up to the amount of

\$200,000, be used on Antelope Island State Park. Both conservation and regular hunts will be coordinated through a cooperative agreement between the Division of State Parks and the Division of Wildlife Resources. The motion passed with Sen. Goodfellow and Rep. Barrus voting in opposition.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to make the funding for the Sovereign Lands Lake Commissions Coordinator (paralegal) ongoing, and switch the \$61,500 from E8 to F8. He moved to appropriate \$50,000 ongoing from the Sovereign Lands Management Restricted account and provide funding for Bear Lake sanitation and law enforcement. He moved to insert a new line (21) at the bottom of the list showing: Forestry, Bear Lake Law Enforcement and Sanitation, Restricted, \$50,000 in column F.

Dick Buhler, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, clarified the role of the Division with regard to law enforcement at Bear Lake.

The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to adopt Funding Increases, 2010 General Session as amended. The motion passed with Sen. Goodfellow voting in opposition.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to adopt the Legislative Intent Language as presented in the Issue Brief.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Wright moved to adopt the intent language with the addition of the following new intent language: The Legislature intends that the internal audit team of the Department of Natural Resources determine the potential costs and benefits of privatization or outsourcing of park operations. The audit team will provide a list of six potential park candidates likely for privatization, and the results shall be presented to the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee by August 31, 2010.

Sen. Goodfellow requested to divide the motion.

The motion to adopt the new intent language passed with Sen. Goodfellow voting in opposition.

The motion to adopt the Legislative Intent Language as presented in the Issue Brief passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to adopt all fees in the Fee Schedule for each department as presented by the Fiscal Analyst, including the new fees for the covered storage at Jordanelle State Park, with the exception of eliminating the three new fees for the coal program totaling \$74,000.00. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to adopt the Natural Resources - Federal Funds and Agriculture and Food - Federal Funds as presented in the Issue Briefs. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to approve the 5% Budget Reductions as presented. Sen. Stowell withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to reverse items #19, General Administration, and #23, Watershed and reverse items #25, General Administration, and #26, Water Resources, of the 5% Budget Reductions, FY 2011.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Noel moved to adopt the motion of Rep. Draxler and add moving item #3, Public Lands Office reductions, to item #26.

John Harja, Director, Public Lands Office, spoke to Rep. Noel's substitute motion.

Rep. Gibson divided the substitute motion.

Rep. Noel's motion to move item #3, Public Lands Office reductions, to item #26 passed with Sen. Stowell and Rep. Gibson voting in opposition. Rep. Wright was absent for the vote.

Rep. Draxler's motion to reverse what is now items #18, Watershed, and #22 General Administration, and reverse what is now items #24, Water Resources, and #25, General Administration, passed unanimously with Rep. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to approve the 5% Budget Reductions, FY 2011 Final Prioritization. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Wright absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to express the committee's support for the passage of H.B. 323, SITLA Amendments. The bill will appropriate \$1,000,000 from SITLA's Land Grant Management fund to the Attorney General's office for litigation. The motion passed with Sen. Goodfellow, Rep. Draxler, Rep. Gowans, and Rep. Watkins voting in opposition. Rep. Wright was absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to support the funding of the Utah Grazing Improvement Program with the dedicated portion of the severance tax dollars. The funding includes the Rangeland Improvement Fund, Invasive Species Mitigation Fund and amount for funding predator control. He moved to support this dedicated funding to begin in FY 2012. It is essential that funding be secured for the environmental and economic benefits that are being created by the Agriculture Conservation Program. The motion passed with Sen. Hinkins voting in opposition. Sen. Goodfellow and Rep. Mathis were absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Watkins moved to support the reauthorization of the loan funds for the Utah State University College of Agriculture building. Rep. Watkins moved that the committee support the commitment made to USU in prior legislative sessions. The dividing of the building into a separate federal and state facility does not reduce the need, or commit, or add additional cost to the state to complete this needed project. The committee recognizes that the Agriculture Department at USU is critical to the well-being of agriculture in Utah and the programs of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

Commissioner Blackham, Department of Agriculture and Food, provided clarification for committee members regarding the reauthorization for approval of the agriculture building.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Goodfellow absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell motioned to encourage the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to proceed with emergency relief loans to the dairy and turkey industries in the Rural Rehab Loan program, including the use of the revenue bond authority of the department when secured to risk levels similar to the current loans with property collateral, USDA loan protection guarantees and or adequate security of new moneys in the Rural Rehab loan program, including ARRA funds.

Commissioner Blackham commented on the critical need for the emergency relief loans to the dairy and turkey industries.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Goodfellow absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Stowell moved to include intent language which is a continuation from the last two years reauthorizing an executive water task force. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Goodfellow absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn at 4:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

---

---

Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair

Rep. Kerry Gibson, Co-Chair

